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OF
The Agricultural and Mechanical College
of Texas

(In co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture.)

November, 1917

EXTENSION SERVICE

No. B-31 (Revised)

Boys' Agricultural Club Work



J. B. Lucius and Fay Handon, of Freestone, Texas, Ready to Walk 22 Miles to Attend a County Encampment near Kirven, Freestone County, Texas, August, 1917.

Address

CLARENCE OUSLEY, Director and State Agent,
College Station, Texas.

State Club Agents

H. H. WILLIAMSON,
State Boys' Agricultural Club Agent.

C. C. FRENCH,
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Scientific Assistant.

ADDRESS,
College Station, Texas.

**KEEP THIS BULLETIN
FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE**



Boys' Agricultural Club Work as Treated in This Bulletin
Includes Corn, Kafir (Milo kafir and Feterita) Pea-
nut, Cotton, Pig, Baby Beef and Lamb Clubs.

Boys' Agricultural Club Work

The Boys' Agricultural Club Work of Texas is conducted by the Extension Service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in Co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture. The work embraces the growing of field crops and the raising of live stock. Field crops which club members are permitted to grow consist of corn, cotton, kafir (milo, kafir and feterita), and peanuts; the live stock which they are permitted to raise consists of pigs, calves and lambs. Other farm activities will be added as the work enlarges.

The object of the Boys' Agricultural Club work is outlined in Circular A-74, (revised), and Farmers' bulletin 566, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Each county agricultural agent in Texas has direct supervision of all club work conducted in his county. County school superintendents, school teachers and public spirited citizens desiring to organize or to assist in the organization of clubs, or desiring more information concerning them, should direct their request to the county agricultural agent of their county. In case the county has no agricultural agent or official representative of this Service, the request should be made to the Director of Extension Service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station, Texas.

This Service does not offer prizes to club members. The only prizes that are insured to club members are the products they produce and the increased knowledge of farming and stock raising received by practical experience and the reading of agricultural literature. Practically all county, district and state fair associations offer prizes as encouragement to club members in their work. Club members are urged to compete in all contests in which they are eligible.

WHO MAY BECOME A MEMBER

Any boy in Texas between the ages of ten and eighteen years may become a member of the Boys' Agricultural Club by filling out an enrollment card furnished by his county agent and mailing it to him, or where there is no county agent in the county by mailing it to the office of the Extension Service, A. and M. College, College Station, Texas. Any boy is eligible to membership even though he is the only boy in his community or his county who wants to join.

ORGANIZATION.

The greatest efficiency and best results in the Boys' Club Work in any

county or community can be obtained only when there is active co-operation between the County Agricultural Agent, county school superintendent, teachers and citizens. In a county of average population it is impossible for the County Agent to give sufficient personal attention to each community group of boys to insure the maximum results.

In addition to the moral sympathy and cooperation of the citizens of a community, it is necessary for some active, public spirited person to volunteer and become leader of the boys of the community. As a rule the principal of the community school is in position to best perform this duty.

COMMUNITY LEADER.

The community leader should not only be a leader in a formal way, but should have the confidence and respect of the boys to the extent that they look upon him as a "big brother." The local leader should actively assist the County Agent in interesting and enrolling the boys of his



FIRST BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB IN TEXAS.
Organized by County Agent, T. M. Marks in Jack County in 1908.

community in the various activities of the boys' club work. As soon as they have enrolled (see rules) the boys should be assembled in a community

meeting, constitution and by-laws prepared and adopted, officers elected, etc. Suggested constitution and by-laws will be found on page 11.

MEETINGS.

Each community club should meet in regular session at least once each month at the school house or the home of some club member. These meetings should be devoted to the transaction of business and to the discussion of local farm problems. The local leader should assist in conducting meetings of this character. As a rule the County Agent will be able to attend and participate in all regular meetings.

As soon as a community club is organized and officers are elected, notice should be given the County Agent. In case there is no county agent in the county, notice should be given to the office of the Extension Service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas.

Scientific farming may be defined as the art of applying the known facts pertaining to agriculture. In order that a boy may become a scientific farmer, as defined, it is necessary for him, in addition to constant practice, to familiarize himself by study with the known facts pertaining to agriculture in its various phases. The facts have been established by the Experiment stations of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Colleges and the experiences of successful farmers.

INFORMATION.

The farm boy of today has access to a large store of useful agricultural information. This information is being disseminated by means of bulletins of Agricultural Colleges and the U. S. Department of Agriculture the agricultural press, by personal instruction and demonstration given by County Agricultural Agents and teachers of agriculture in the public schools. Special effort is made by the Extension Service of the A. and M. College of Texas to furnish Club boys with good agricultural literature.

ENCAMPMENTS.

Many of the large fair associations in Texas have been cooperating with the Extension Service in conducting Encampment Schools for club boys. These schools are usually of a week's duration. Club boys attending receive valuable instruction and information in the various phases of agriculture by specialists of the Extension Service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College and the United States Department of Agriculture.

In most counties where there are county agents or public spirited citizens who foster the boys' clubs, encampments are held which last two or three days. These are usually held near a good swimming pool where the boys can swim and dive and have a world of fun. Between the hours of instruction which consists of lectures, demonstrations, etc., the boys run races, play games and have a good time in general. At night they all gather

around the camp fires and tell stories, listen to inspiring talks by prominent men and others. The county encampment has become an important part of boys' agricultural club work in Texas.

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING CLUBS.

1. All boys between the ages of ten and eighteen on January 1st of the year for which they are enrolling are eligible for membership.
 2. In order to become a member it is necessary to make application on a prepared form, which will be furnished by county agricultural agents.
 3. Members must agree to grow at least one of the following crops: Corn, cotton, kafir, and peanuts, or raise at least one pig, calf or lamb.
 4. Each member must plant and cultivate his own crops and care for his own live stock. A small boy or girl may hire help to break land.
 5. All members should exhibit their live stock and samples of their products at county or state fairs upon request of their agricultural agent.
 6. Members must keep an accurate daily record of their work and make a report at the close of the season on a report form furnished by the Department through the county agricultural agent.
 7. Corn exhibits should consist of ten ears each; kafir exhibits, ten heads each; cotton exhibits, two pounds of seed cotton and ten open bolls; peanut exhibits, one peck of seed peanuts and ten vines with peanuts on them; live stock exhibits, stock that has been raised.
 8. Each exhibit should be accompanied (unless otherwise directed) with a report or a certificate signed by two disinterested parties, attesting to the yield per acre, the accuracy in the measurement of the land, and cost of production. In the case of live stock, the report should give cost of production, net profit, and daily gain.
- No boy should be permitted to compete for prizes offered to club members unless they are members of the Boys' Club Work.

FIELD CROPS.

9. The following basis of awards should be used in awarding all prizes on corn, cotton, kafir, and peanuts:

(1) Greatest yield per acre.....	30 per cent
(2) Best showing of net profit.....	30 per cent
(3) Best exhibit of products.....	20 per cent
(4) Best written history of "How I made my Crop".....	20 per cent
Total	100 per cent
10. In calculating the cost of production, uniform charges should be made as follows:

(a) Rent of land, per acre.....	\$5.00
(b) Per hour of work for each member.....	.10
(c) Per hour of work for each horse used.....	.05
(d) Per 2-horse load of stable manure.....	2.00
(e) Commercial fertilizers used.....	actual cost.



BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB ENCAMPMENT

11. Items 3 of rule 9 should be judged by a committee of agricultural experts, and items 1, 2 and 4 by a committee of educational experts or teachers.

12. In measuring the yield of corn per acre, the following rule should be used Weigh corn in the shuck when it is dry. Then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Shuck and shell this 100 pounds and weigh the shelled corn. Multiply the weight of all the corn in the shuck by the weight of this shelled corn. Point off the two right hand figures and divide by 56. The result will be the yield in bushels of shelled corn.

13. In measuring the yield of kafir, use one of the following rules:

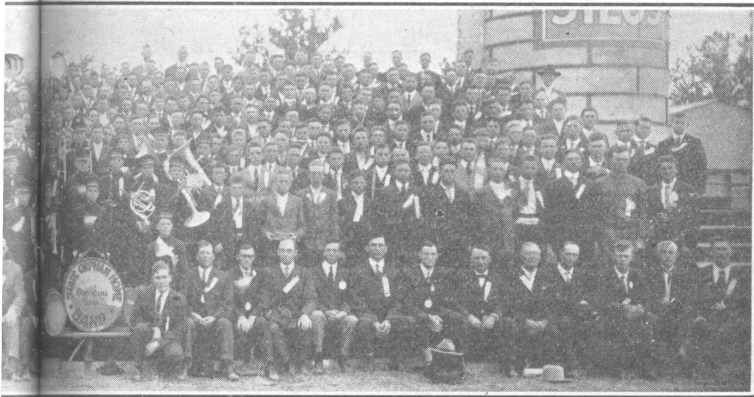
(a) In case entire crop is threshed, divide the total weight of the threshed grain by 56, which will give the yield in bushels.

(b) If crop is harvested in heads and not threshed, weigh the grain in the head, then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Thresh the 100 pounds and weigh the threshed grain carefully and multiply the weight of all the grain in the head by the weight of this threshed grain. Point off the two right hand figures and divide by 56. The result will be the yield in bushels of threshed grain.

14. In measuring the yield of peanuts per acre, follow the same general rule as for the other crops, that is:

Weigh peanuts on the vine when they have been thoroughly cured. Then weigh out 100 pounds separately. Pick the peanuts from this 100 pounds and weigh the picked peanuts. Multiply the weight of all the nuts and vines by the weight of these picked nuts. Point off the two right-hand figures and divide by 30. (If the large Virginia variety is grown, divide by 22.) The result will be the result in bushels of picked peanuts.

15. In calculating the cost of producing cotton, an additional charge



MENT, STATE FAIR OF TEXAS, OCTOBER, 1917

of \$1.00 should be made for each 100 pounds of lint to cover the cost of ginning, wrapping, etc. If the picking is hired, it should be charged at the rate of 10c per hour.

LIVE STOCK.

16. All livestock entered for prizes at county and state fairs should have been owned, fed and cared for by the exhibitor for at least 120 days prior to being exhibited.

17. A daily record should be kept of the following:

- (a) Kind, cost, and amount of feed used.
- (b) Kind of pasture used and number of days used.
- (c) Time devoted to caring for stock.

18. Animals should be weighed when they come into the possession of the club member and at least at the beginning and ending of the feeding period in order to ascertain the gain made. The date of farrowing of pigs should be recorded.

19. Every club member raising sheep should secure four or more ewes of as good breeding and individuality as are available. Bred ewes are preferable and may be obtained at any time after breeding prior to lambing.

20. It is suggested that all prizes for live stock be awarded on the following basis:

BABY BEEF AND MARKET HOGS.

- (a) Best animal according to its purpose.....30 points
- (b) Daily gains.....20 points
- (c) Cost of gain.....30 points
- (d) Story and record.....20 points

SOW WITH LITTER.

- (a) Best sow and litter according to purpose.....25 points
- (b) Rate of gain per pig.....15 points
- (c) Cost of gain, including keep of sow from breeding
to weaning litter.....30 points
- (d) Percentage of pigs raised to number farrowed.....10 points
- (e) Best kept record and story.....20 points

LAMBS.

- (a) Pen of lambs.....25 points
- (b) Fleeces, considering weight, quality and appearance
from ewes, mothers of lambs as in (a).....10 points
- (c) Rate of gain on lambs (from 4 ewes).....10 points
- (d) Cost of production per pound of gain, including
keeping of ewes from breeding time until lambs are
weaned25 points
- (e) Percentage of lambs raised to the number born.....10 points
- (f) Record and written report of work done by members.....20 points
- Total100 points



AT MESS.

Bee County Club Members at Their County Encampment.

YEARLING EWES.

(a) Individuality	50 points
(b) Record report	20 points
(c) Fleece (where possible the previous years fleece should be shown).....	30 points
Total	100 points

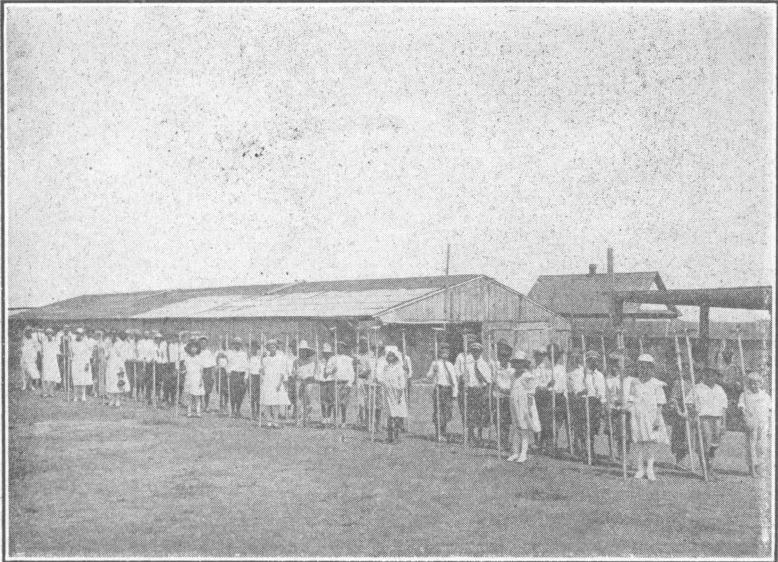
SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR BOYS' AGRICULTURAL CLUB.

Article 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the "....."
Boys' Agricultural Club. (Name of Community)

Article 2. Object.

The object of this club shall be to promote the interest of its members



ONE FORM OF PREPAREDNESS.

Childress County Club members Attending an Agricultural Club Encampment School Near Childress, Texas, August, 1917.

in the study and practice of better farming, emphasizing the value and importance of producing more feed crops and the raising of live stock to consume it.

Article 3.

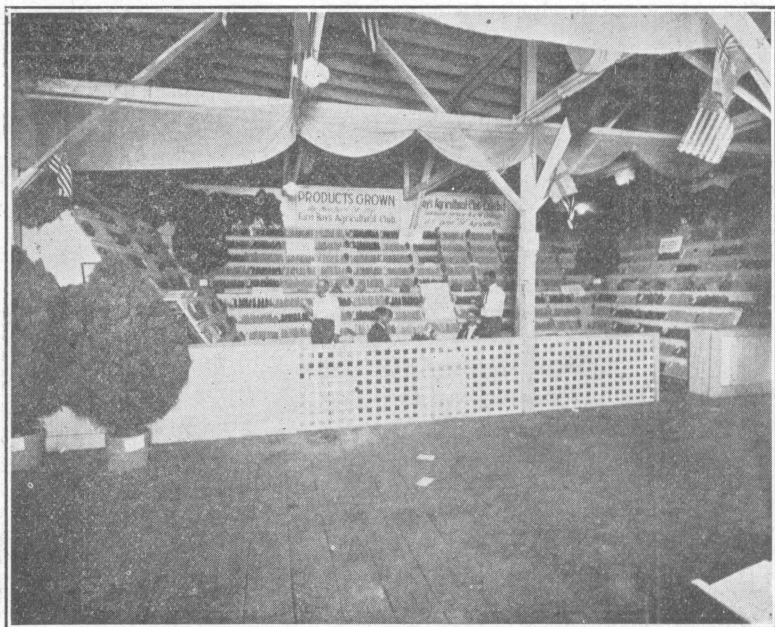
All boys between the ages of ten and eighteen years residing in this community who have been placed on the membership list of the Extension Service of the A. and M. College of Texas, shall constitute the active membership of this organization.

Article 4. Organization.

The officers shall be a president, a vice-president and secretary.

Article 5. Meetings.

There shall be a regular annual meeting of the club and such special meetings at times and places as may be determined by the president and the local leader.



WHAT OUR BOYS DID.

Boys' Agricultural Club Exhibit at the State Fair of Texas, October, 1917

Article 6. Elections.

The election of the officers shall be at the regular meetings, and such elections shall be held according to the direction of the local leader.

Article 7. Amendments.

Amendments to the constitution may be made by a majority vote of the members present at any authorized meeting.

BY-LAWS.

Section 1. Duties and Privileges.

It shall be the duty of each member to cooperate as far as possible with his fellow members in the study and practice of better farming, emphasizing the value and importance of producing more feed crops and the raising of live stock, such as baby beeves, hogs and lambs, to consume it. Each member shall be entitled to one vote in the business meetings of the club. Meetings shall be devoted to the discussion of timely agricultural topics by the members, the local leader and such visitors as may be invited to participate.

Section 2. Officers.

The officers shall be elected to serve for one year and perform such services as are ordinarily required of their positions. They shall serve until the election of their successors.

Section 3. President.

The president shall preside at all meetings of the club.

Section 4. Vice-Presidents.

The vice presidents shall perform such duties as are ordinarily required of their positions.

Section 5. Secretary-Treasurer.

The secretary-treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of the club and shall render a report of the same at each authorized meeting.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS.

The various phases of boys' agricultural club work can be made an excellent instrument for the teacher to illustrate the examples of the class room and to make the theoretical more practical. In many places this is already being done and the students of the common and graded schools take no little interest in this kind of work. Some instructors say that club members learn more thoroughly the principles laid down in the text-books, because they can daily apply the things they are taught.

CORRELATING CLUB WORK WITH THE CLASS ROOM.

Arithmetic.

It is easy to make arithmetic fit into the regular class work. The boy can measure his acre, compute the square feet in it and thereby gain valuable knowledge of how to use his information learned at school; or he may weigh his calf, pig or lamb and figure out just what it is worth on the market that day; or he may take his record book and see how much it is costing him to feed his animal. There are hundreds of ways in which every club member may put into practice almost every principle in his arithmetic.

Agriculture.

Of course club work is nothing more than an effort to teach agriculture to our boys. Hence, every member can study his own soil, the methods of preparing his seed-bed, of testing his seed, of tilling his soil, and the habits and life of his own animal. He can learn how to work out a ration for his pig or his calf or his lamb, so as to feed it most economically.

For the teacher who wishes a more definite outline of teaching agriculture in the public school, reference is made to the bulletin, "Practical Agriculture in Texas Schools," which may be had by addressing, Extension Service, A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.

Societies.

The club may be used by the teacher as a society at which the president of the local club may preside. It is not necessary to confine the entire program to the subject of agriculture, but anything of community interest may be used in the meeting. There is perhaps nothing that strengthens the work of a teacher more than organization. Boys' Agricultural Clubs may be utilized to this end.

A great deal of enthusiasm may be aroused by the friendly rivalry of one school by the other for the best team exhibit of any of the products of its members, such as corn, peanuts, pigs, etc. This contest feature is a stimulus to more active work in the school and can be carried on at rallies or in connection with the athletic meets.

It is just as important to have a team winning first honors at corn growing, or pig raising, or at stock judging, as it is to have a successful team in basket ball or any other of the athletic sports.

AN ORGANIZED CLUB.

When a club has been organized, the secretary of the club should immediately fill out the blanks below. Then detach this sheet and forward it to Extension Service, A. and M. College, College Station, Texas.

Name of Club

County

School or Community

Date Organized

No. of Members

Name of President

Address of PresidentBox.....R. F. D.....

Name of Vice-President

Address of Vice-PresidentBox.....R. F. D.....

Name of SecretaryBox.....R. F. D.....

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